

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 1

THE DAILY CARDINAL
(UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN)
17 SEPTEMBER 1980

On campus this week

CIA recruiters collar

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Freedom of Information files obtained by the Daily Cardinal reveal that the Central Intelligence Agency, pressured by student protests against on-campus recruitment, has turned to the use of a professional placement service, for the recruiting of University Economics Department students.

The CIA, through one of its intelligence arms, the Office of Economic Research, contacts University students who qualify for its Economic Analysis division and arranges interviews. Recruitment conferences through the placement service, American Economic Association are held each fall. Conferences have been conducted in Washington, D.C., Dallas, New York, Atlantic City and Chicago.

Despite evidence of the CIA covertly recruiting potential employees, no University regulations exist governing CIA activities at the University.

Recruitment takes place at two levels, public and covert. Public recruitment encompasses such efforts as the National Security Agency's annual appearance on campus seeking job applicants. The CIA, in fact, holds public screening for job applicants through Career Placement and Advising, situated in Science Hall.

"Usually they call up and ask for a student in some specialty, such as Soviet economic policy."

Economics Prof. Eugene Smolensky

The CIA is tentatively scheduled to be on campus this Thursday and Friday interviewing Computer Science majors for systems analysis work. According to Career Advising and Placement, no one has signed up for this week's interviews yet, in which case the CIA recruiters will not invade Madison.

"They are a legitimate employer, whether you agree with their function or not," said Tom Johnson, director of Career Advising and Placement Service. "Some students, some faculty in fact, are not pleased with their presence. But then some

faculty are not pleased with the EPA, the TVA or the Justice Department interviewing on campus."

Covert recruiting actions involve a faculty member recommending a student to the CIA as a possible employee. The CIA then does a check into the student's past to determine if he or she would be a security risk. This is done without the student's knowledge.

Profs. Ralph Andreano and Eugene Smolensky, current and former chairpersons of the Economics Dept. respectively, said they were ignorant of the connection between the Office of Economic Research and the CIA. Contacted by the Cardinal, both professors said they had never heard of the Office.

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Tom Johnson, director of Career Advising and Placement Service

Smolensky said, however, that the department placement office keeps files on its graduate students which are open to prospective employers. Government agencies, which might include the CIA, routinely call economics faculty asking for references of graduate students in different areas of expertise, Smolensky added.

"The number of people who call is large," Smolensky said. "I wouldn't remember a specific call."

"Usually they call up and ask for a student in some specialty, such as Soviet economic policy," he said. "Then they are usually referred to the secretary."

Leo W. Sweeney, executive officer for the Office of Economic Research, was indeed interested in students with backgrounds in Soviet economic analysis. But according to Freedom of Information files, Sweeney was interested in lots of students. Agricultural economists. Econometricians. Economists with an engineering background. Economists with research experience on Soviet-East European topics and African topics.

scholars

Sweeney was in charge of the so-called Developing Nations Division of the Office of Economic Research. He retired a few months ago, according to a CIA source.

At a January, 1977, meeting with one University economics student in Atlantic City, Sweeney apparently broached the subject of covert operations with a prospective candidate. "Genuine interest in research and operations (not clandestine)" was how Sweeney described the candidate in a report to his superiors.

CIA covert recruitment on this campus has been proven. Former Dean of Students Leroy Luberg admitted in 1976, to providing the CIA with names of students who could be potential agents. "I turned in

The Church Committee discovered the secret presence of the CIA on more than 100 campuses across the country.

names of those specially talented for the area. I did the same for the State Department," Luberg said. But Luberg stopped recruiting after a time. "I thought it was unwise for a person in my position to

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